Upgradation of State Roads to National Highways in Gujarat

1306. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested to the Central Government to upgrade some of the segments of the State Road to National Highways in view of being an Industrial State; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to upgrade those roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals may be considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds keeping in view the traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.

Fastening Seat Belts in Cars

†1307. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made it mandatory to fasten the seat belts for the persons sitting at the front seat of a car;

(b) if so, whether this rule is also applicable to policemen deputed for the security of VVIPs, while sitting in the car; and

(c) if so, in what manner such policemen would be able to protect the VVIP in case of emergency in the running car?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No separate instructions have been issued in this regard so far.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.